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ABSTRACT

Noting that children are virtually born to learn, this videotape provides parents with insight into children's early learning capacity and ways that parents can facilitate that brain development. The first part of this videotape discusses the parents' role as a child's first teachers. General ways by which young children can learn are explored, including simple play, dancing, letting a child discover how things work, and reading stories about the real environment, such as zoo and farm animals. More specific ways in which a parent may facilitate learning are then explored, including modeling reading, and providing simple objects for play such as an empty oatmeal container, spray bottle, color plates made with cellophane, and photographs of the child. Next, the videotape explores brain development and the influence of a child's environment on learning. This section notes that "how" a parent communicates to his or her child is as important as what a parent communicates, and that parent speech should be both sensitive and challenging. Finally, the videotape explores learning in early childhood programs, wherein a quality environment is achieved through developmentally appropriate play and planned activities which, ideally, can be continued at home. (HTH)

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